

In feeding we never saw her catch a grasshopper herself. She caught only insects on the wing. She was also very adept at exploring all nooks and crannies with her tongue.

Round about February or March, 1948, "Freddie" began staying out till fairly late in the evening and sometimes showed a reluctance about coming in at all to her perch in the bathroom. Here it might be worth noting that these little birds leave no droppings under their perches at night. However all was well until May 6, the day before the school holidays. "Freddie" came off her perch and started her day with a very leisurely cleaning, followed by a very rapid, almost nervous kind of preening and then after giving her tail a quick shake would start off on her aerial evolutions. These usual morning exercises consisted of rapid point to point flying, twisting, dodging and turning, followed by a thorough grooming and preening of feathers. She had her usual spoonful of milk and honey, then went outside and after singing her greetings to the morning, departed on her customary round of visits.

This time she did not return.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Range of the Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*).

—I found the Chestnut-tailed Thornbill frequent in forest areas and occasional on scrub plain at Bilbarin, near Corrigin, during 1946, and I have recorded the species at Dulbellin, four miles west of Dandin. These observations suggest a slight extension of the range as given in Serventy and Whittell's *Birds of Western Australia*, which does not include "... the South-west corner, south and west of Moora, Wongan Hills, Kellerberrin and Lake Grace."

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

Feeding of Red Wattle-birds.—A Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*) perching on an overhanging eave of the house attracted my notice on October 24 last. Further observation disclosed that the bird was stretching down to take a spider from its web hanging to the eave. After repeated efforts it managed to seize and swallow the spider. From there it flew to another eave and repeated the performance. On October 31, at Mandurah many wattle-birds were feeding on the nectar from the flowers of *Banksia grandis* which was in full bloom along the estuary. One parent bird was taking the nectar from the flower and a young bird perched on the branch too, was taking the nectar in turn from the mother's beak.

—SYBIL ELLIOTT, Nedlands.